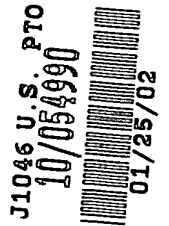


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sunao TABATA et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE
PROCESSING METHOD
Appl. No.: Not yet assigned
Filing Date: January 25, 2002
Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: Not yet assigned

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16
2-24-04



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicants do not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS

Document A5 discloses that an RGB sensor is employed for discriminating achromatic colors by pixels, and only G signal is used when a color is achromatic.

Document A6 discloses that color signal is stored in a memory in brightness/color-difference form. The contents of the memory is compressed and transmitted in accordance with the result of the determination whether a color is color or monochrome.

Document A7 discloses that a brightness signal and a sub-sampled color difference signal are converted into blocks, and these blocks are compressed individually.

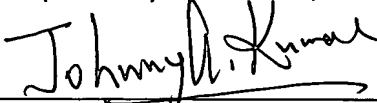
English translations of documents A5-A7 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A5-A7. Applicants also note that documents A1 and A2 are U.S. patent counterparts of document A6, and document A3 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A7.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.


January 25, 2002

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Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016907-1367		SERIAL NO. Not Yet Assigned	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center;">Sunao TABATA</div>			
				FILING DATE <div style="text-align: center;">January 25, 2002</div>		GROUP ART UNIT <div style="text-align: center;">Not Yet Assigned</div>	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	5,861,960	1-19-1999	Suzuki et al.	358	432	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> 11046 U.S. PRO 10/054990 01/25/02 </div> 
	A2	6,118,552	9-12-2000	Suzuki et al.	358	432	
	A3	5,293,252	3-8-1994	Kim et al.	358	432	
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	NAME		PRELIMINARY CLASS	FILING DATE	
	A4	09/955,312	Tabata et al.			9-19-2001	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	A5	2-144567	6-4-1990	Japan			Abstract
	A6	7-95416	4-7-1995	Japan			Abstract
	A7	5-153405	6-18-1993	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							